IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1,2,6,7,13, 14, and 16 as follows:

1.   (Amended) A system for decoding a message symbol of a plurality of message symbols embedded in an audio signal, each of the message symbols being represented by first and second code symbols displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, comprising:

means for accumulating a first signal value of a first code symbol representing a predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of a second code symbol representing the same predetermined message symbol; and

means for examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol represented by the first and second code symbols.

2.   (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the accumulating means is operative to produce a third signal value derived from the first and second signal values and the examining means is operative to detect the predetermined message symbol based on the third signal value.

6.   (Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the plurality of message symbols is represented by plural sets of first and second code symbols, each set representing a respective one of the plurality of message symbols, the plural sets of first and second code symbols being arranged as a message having a predetermined sequence including at least one marker symbol and at least one data symbol, and wherein the accumulating means is operative to accumulate sets of first and second signal values, each signal value set corresponding to a respective one of the sets of first and second code symbols and including a first signal value representing the first code

symbol of the respective code symbol set and a second signal value representing the second code symbol thereof and the examining means is operative to detect the message by detecting the presence of the marker symbol based on its signal value set and to detect at least one data symbol based on the detected presence of the marker symbol and the corresponding signal value set of the at least one data symbol.

7.   (Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the accumulating means is operative to store the first and second signal values, and the examining means is operative to detect the predetermined message symbol by examining both of the first and second signal values.

13.   (Amended) A method for decoding a message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, each of the message symbols being represented by first and second code symbols displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, comprising:

accumulating a first signal value of a first code symbol representing a predetermined message symbol and a second signal value of a second code symbol representing the same predetermined message symbol; and

examining the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.

14.   (Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving the first and second code symbols by transducing an acoustic audio signal to an electrical signal, the acoustic audio signal having a plurality of message symbols comprising source data for the acoustic audio signal, and storing data representing indications of detected message symbols.

16. (Amended) A system for decoding a message symbol of a plurality of message symbols incorporated in an audio signal, each of the message symbols being represented by first and second code symbols displaced in time in the audio signal with at least one code symbol representing a different one of the message symbols positioned in time between the first and second code symbols, comprising:

an input device for receiving a first code symbol representing a predetermined message symbol and a second code symbol representing the same predetermined message symbol; and

a digital processor in communication with the input device to receive data therefrom representing the first and second code symbols, the digital processor being programmed to accumulate a first signal value representing the first code symbol and a second signal value representing the second code symbol, the digital processor being further programmed to examine the accumulated first and second signal values to detect the predetermined message symbol.